

# MHawaii MARINE

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 22

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

JUNE 8, 2007



MCMAP  
A-3



Varsity  
B-1



Soccer  
C-1

## Red Lions celebrate birthday

**Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**

*Combat Correspondent*

Since its activation in 1952, service members of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, Marine Aircraft Group 24, have lived by their mission to provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. The unit must also be prepared for short-notice, worldwide employment in support of Marine Air Ground Task Force operations.

In celebration of the unit's achievements, the Lucky Red Lions of HMH-363 celebrated their 55th birthday Friday in Hangar 101.

Marines and Sailors gathered around Lt. Col. Allen D. Broughton, commanding officer, HMH-363, as he told them about his experience with the squadron when it

was based out of Tustin, Calif.

"This is my second tour with this squadron," he said. "The first time I was a young lieutenant; now I'm back as the commanding officer. I have always truly had the spirit of the squadron with me."

As Broughton spoke to the squadron about their history, images from the Red Lions' past projected on a large screen behind him.

One story told to the squadron was how they came to be known as the "Lucky Red Lions."

During the Vietnam conflict, HMH-363 airlifted the Republic of Korea's Tiger Division to Hill 78. This airlift helped the Koreans to accomplish what is considered their most successful mission during the conflict, which is why they dubbed the squadron the "Lucky Red Lions."

After digging deep into

*See BIRTHDAY, A-5*



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

The birthday cake for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 is cut during a birthday celebration to commemorate the Red Lions' 55th birthday June 1 in Hangar 101.

## Legal drinking for Marines under 21 in special circumstances

**Cpl. Mark Fayloga**

*Combat Correspondent*

Back in mid-April when Marine Administrative Message 266/07 went into effect Devil Dogs (21 and under) stationed overseas were excited. Under the new policy, the legal drinking age for Marines now matches that of the host nation. Matching host nation laws for the legal age of drinking is standard in every other branch of service and when the MarAdmin hit, the Marine Corps followed suit.

However, one thing most Marines might not have realized about the new policy is that it actually takes it farther than any of the other services. Underage Marines stationed stateside have also been granted permission to enjoy their brew, although the very limited occasions on which they may do so are up to installation commanders.

In addition to giving commanders the ability to host events serving alcohol to 18-and up Marines on base for units returning from a war zone.

Commanders may lower the drinking age to 18 within the United States under special circumstances and may authorize the possession and consumption of alcohol by underage Marines in the barracks.

The order reads, "The commander of a United States Marine Corps installation may waive the age 21 requirement, but not below 18 years-of-age, if such commander determines that the exemption is justified by special circumstances."

*See DRINK, A-5*



Pfc. Brian A. Marion

Brigadier Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, stands alongside the Regional Contracting Office personnel. The contracting office was nominated for Team Excellence, in which they logged more than 400 hours of overtime and executed over 980 procurement actions.

## Federal employees honored during annual ceremony

**Pfc. Brian A. Marion**

*Combat Correspondent*

Federal employees here were honored during the 51st Excellence in Federal Government Awards ceremony held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, May 31.

According to Edward H. Kubo, chairman of the Federal Executive Board and keynote speaker at the ceremony, the event was held to congratulate federal employees on a job well done, to recognize the achievements of those employees and to thank the employees for their hard work.

"Any time we can pause to show our

appreciation for noteworthy employees for their personal and professional dedication is what is important," said Brig. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

There were eight categories in which employees or groups of employees could have been nominated into including: Federal Employer of Choice; Team Excellence; Federal Supervisor/ Manager of the Year; Federal Employee of the Year— Professional, Administrative, and Technical; Federal Employee of the Year— Clerical and Assistant; Federal Employee of the Year— Trades and Crafts; Exceptional Community Service and Leader, Mentor Coach of the year.

There were five nominees from K-Bay which included the Regional Contracting Office for Team Excellence, Edward H. Campbell for Federal Supervisor/Manager of the Year; Carolyn E. Irvin for Federal Employee of the Year—Professional, Administrative, Technical; Marcia Izumi for Federal Employee of the Year— Clerical and assistant; and Wilbert Ihu for Federal Employee of the Year—Trades and Crafts.

"I offer my greatest congratulations to our nominees," said Hummer. "They set the example for all of us as they do their daily jobs and continue to make contributions. I appreciate them being on our team."

## Forest City Housing changes watering policy

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**

*Combat Correspondent*

Forest City Housing area is currently implementing a watering policy for residents on Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay.

Until recently, the privatized housing hasn't had a watering policy, and is now adopting the base's policy.

"We're implementing more restricted watering policies to restrict water usage," said Denise Kelly, general manager of family housing for Forest City Housing. "The base is very conscientious of water conservation during the coming drought season."

The base's watering policies are established to limit water usage during the summer months when Hawaii experiences a dry season, said Sheldon Comer, tenant relations manager for Family Housing on base.

The watering policy for base housing establishes sprinkler system watering hours and days for the different seasons.

The hours remain the same year around. Residents can water their lawns between 6 and 8

a.m., or between 6 and 8 p.m. to prevent unnecessary water usage.

"Watering your lawn during the day time in summer is like watering the asphalt," Comer said.

During the months between May and October, residents of even numbered houses may water lawns Tuesdays and Saturdays, while odd numbered households can take advantage of watering hours on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Between November and

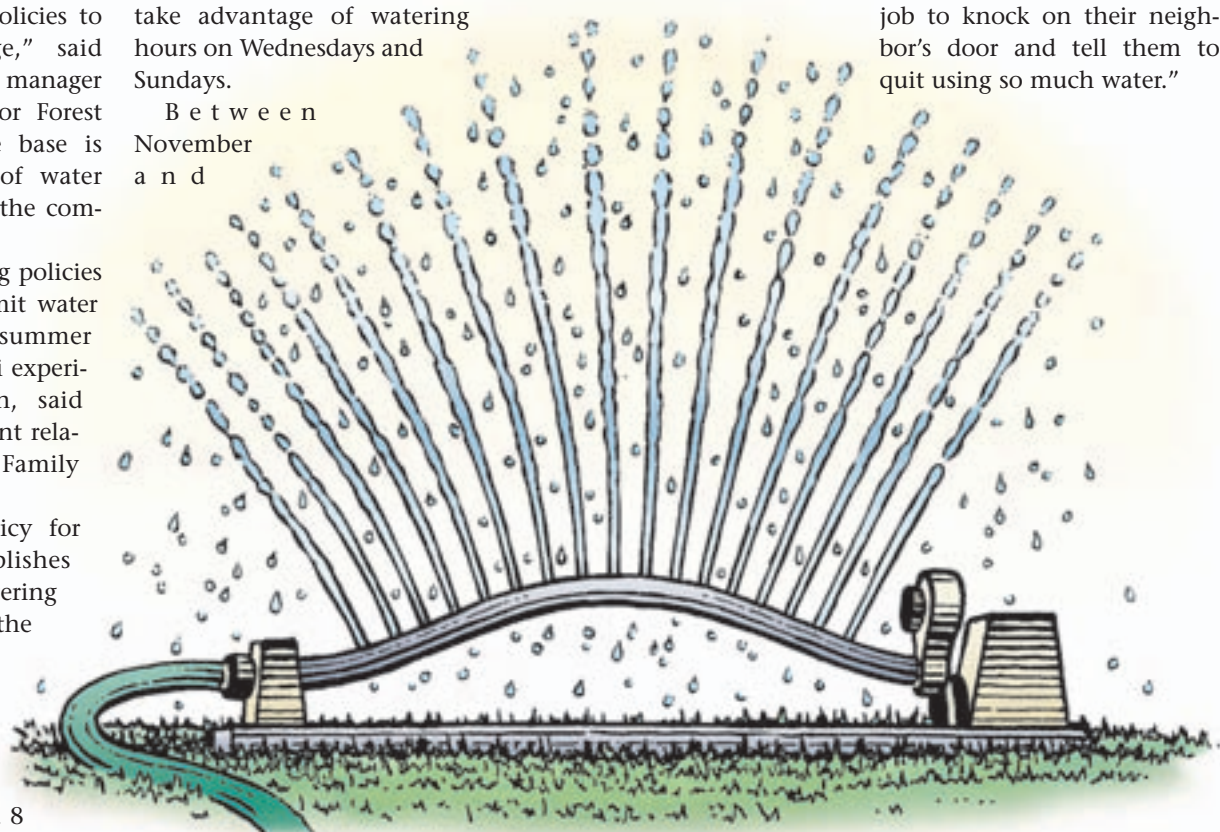
April, even numbers can water their lawns on Saturdays, and odd numbers can water on Sundays.

"We've had no restrictions on water usage recently," Kelly said, "and because it's Hawaii's drought season, Forest City has to be more careful with water conservation."

The watering policy is part of MCBH Directive P11000.2A, Unaccompanied Personnel

Housing Management Manual, appendix D. The policy, and other housing policies, can be found at the Base Adjutant directives control point online at [www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g1/adjutant/pubs/11000.htm](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g1/adjutant/pubs/11000.htm).

"The watering policy is enforced at housing by the housing inspectors," said Comer, "but it's also the job of the residents living there to monitor each other. It's their job to knock on their neighbor's door and tell them to quit using so much water."





# News Briefs

## Information Needed by MCBH K-Bay Military Police Traffic Division

On May 30 around 9:45 p.m. at the intersection of Lawrence Rd and South Lawrence Rd. an unknown vehicle struck a pedestrian walking on the side of the roadway. The Driver then fled the scene without rendering aid or notifying the proper authorities.

The Traffic Division is requesting anyone having information which might assist in the investigation to contact the Duty Accident Investigator.

Contact the Traffic Division at 257-1146 or the Military Police Desk Sergeant at 257-2123.

## Semper Fit Closures

Kaneohe Bay Semper Fit Center basketball and racquetball courts will be closed until Sunday for maintenance. The courts will re-open on Monday. For more information, please contact the Semper Fit Center at 254-7597.

## New Clinic Central Appointment Number

In an effort to streamline services and provide greater access to care for beneficiaries of Makalapa and Kaneohe Bay Branch Health Clinics, there will be one combined central appointment line. Medical appointments for either clinic can be scheduled by dialing 473-0247 between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Weekend same-day appointments are available at either Makalapa or Kaneohe Bay Branch Health Clinics by calling 473-0247 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii does have an After-hours Provider Advice Line that enables beneficiaries to speak with a medical provider anytime the clinics are closed. This service is accessed simply by calling the above central appointment phone number and there is an option to speak with an answering service who will contact an after-hours provider. The provider will return a beneficiary's call within the hour.

## Weekly Legal Brief

A new weekly brief to aid Marines, Sailors and civilian personnel on Wills and Powers of Attorney will be held at the Legal Services Center, Legal Assistance Office, Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Also included are some important tips on Wills and Powers of Attorney.

## Recruiter Assistants Needed

The Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pa., is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants.

RS Harrisburg covers the following counties in Pennsylvania: Fulton, Franklin, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Chester, Berks, Schuylkill, Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Northampton, Carbon, Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Delaware.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact Staff Sgt. Christopher Cunningham at (717) 770-6637.

## Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700

# Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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# Life's a journey, not a destination



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi  
Combat Correspondent

June welcomes me into my second month in the fleet. I can just see the dialogue bubble popping out of your head as you read this – “BOOT!” it says. Yes, that’s me, “Hawaii Marine’s” newest boot.

While working diligently in the Public Affairs Office, I stumbled across a quote that

made me stop reading and write it down. It was by Barbara Hall, author and television producer.

“The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn’t matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark.”

The quote really made me think. I know I’m not the best person to talk about being in the Marine Corps, since I just started my career, but maybe I can serve as a reminder to many as to how they may have felt when they first were starting out.

In my eyes, I’m at the beginning of a new and exciting adventure. Even in my year and four months in the Corps, my life has changed significantly.

I’m not where I thought I’d be when I graduated from high school in 2004. I left home for college filled with ambitions; I wanted to be an English major, an American literature teacher. I hoped that, through teaching, I could inspire one student to love what I loved about literature, the way my literature teacher did for me.

I now find myself a U.S. Marine, the only one in my family. I’m a trained print and broadcast journalist. I live in Hawaii. The funny thing is, now that I’m at this point in my life, I don’t think I could see myself anywhere else. People call me a “lifer;” I just

think I’m happy with life for now.

Reenlistment is still far away, but I still get the questions; “So, do you think you’ll reenlist?” “Are you just doing four and getting out?”

As Ms. Hall says, “...we go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back.” Who knows where life will take me in the next few years. I may be ready to start the next part of my life, or this may be the great journey in my life. Who knows?

Maybe Ms. Hall is right. What matters is that we embark. I once read “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” I guess it’s true, isn’t it? Life will take us where it will. All it asks of us is to go. Just ... go.

I’ll bet you never thought you’d be where you are now. You probably grew up, like I did, thinking you’d be a dentist or an astronaut or a firefighter. You’ve probably gone down a few wrong roads in your life, like I have. You may have gotten lost a time or two, like I did at college. Maybe you’ve even turned back, or are planning on turning back to something that was better for you.

Do you remember how you were when you were “the boot?” Do you remember being at the start of your career, departing on an exciting new adventure, not knowing where life would take you? I’ll bet the road hasn’t proven to be a straight one, but you did the most important thing you could do in your life. You embarked.

# New scam targets military spouses

News Release  
American Red Cross

Washington — The American Red Cross has learned about a new scam targeting military families. This scam takes the form of false information being told to military families as described below:

The caller (young-sounding, American accent) calls a military spouse and identifies herself as a representative from the Red Cross. The caller states that the spouse's husband (not identified by name) was hurt while on duty in Iraq and was med-evacuated to a hospital in Germany. The caller states they couldn't start treatment until paperwork was accomplished, and that in order to start the paperwork they needed the spouse to verify her husband's social security number and date of birth. In this case, the spouse was quick to catch on and she did not provide any information to the caller.

American Red Cross representatives typically do not contact military members and dependents directly and almost always go through a commander or first sergeant channels. Military family members are urged not to give out any per-

sonal information over the phone if contacted by unknown/unverified individuals, to include confirmation that your spouse is deployed.

It is a federal crime, punishable by up to 5 years in prison, for a person to falsely or fraudulently pretend to be a member of, or an agent for, the American National Red Cross for the purpose of soliciting, collecting, or receiving money or material.

In addition, American Red Cross representatives will contact military members/dependents directly only in response to an emergency message initiated by your family. The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family members. The Department of Defense will contact families directly if their military member has been injured. Should any military family member receive such a call, they are urged to report it to their local Family Readiness Group or Military Personnel Flight.

The American Red Cross ensures that the American people are in touch with their family members serving in the United States military by operating a communications network that is open 24-hours, 7

days-a-week, 365 days-a-year. Through a network of employees and volunteers at Red Cross national that link families during emergencies, access to emergency financial assistance, confidential counseling, community support headquarters, local chapters, on military installations, and deployed with troops, the Red Cross offers a broad range of services. Among these services, the Red Cross provides communications for families left behind, assistance to veterans, and preparedness courses for military personnel and their families

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million

volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4

million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest U.S. supplier of blood and blood products.

The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.



# Weekend weather outlook

## Today



**Day** — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 83. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Night** — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**High — 83**

**Low — 75**

## Saturday



**Day** — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 82. East wind between 10 and 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Night** — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**High — 82**

**Low — 74**

## Sunday



**Day** — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 83. East wind between 10 and 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East wind around 10 mph.

**High — 83**

**Low — 74**





Sergeant Shane Dietlin, student, Marital Arts Instructors Course, helps another Marine stretch at the new Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training facility, Warrior Pit 216 May 30. The Pit officially opened up for training May 30 and is the first of two training pits to open aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

# New pit offers real world environment, more challenges

Story and Photos by  
**Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**

*Combat Correspondent*

Sweat poured from the Marines’ faces as the scorching afternoon sun beat down on them. They tried to retrace their thoughts and remember what they were taught as their opponent suddenly shot his fist out.

A new Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training facility, located at Landing Zone 216, allows units to schedule time to brush up on their martial arts skills or to physically train.

The training facility, known as Warrior Pit 216, became open to units May 30 and was christened by the Martial Arts Instructors Course as they ventured to the outside arena.

“I absolutely love it,” said Staff Sgt. Martin J. Knott,

staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Marine Corps Martial Arts Course, Regimental Schools, about the new pit. “It allows us to work outside on uneven terrain in different types of weather conditions. We have a beautiful mat room upstairs at Regimental Schools, but the thing about using it is that people get soft. If they don’t roll right or fall right they won’t know because the mats cushion them. Here they will be able to tell.”

Three layers formulate the pit. The first layer is two inches of crushed rocks covered by the second layer of compacted sand. To reduce injury, the third layer is comprised of approximately six inches of shredded rubber and a sandbag barrier surrounds the whole pit.

Knott said the instructors’ course would now spend more time using Warrior Pit

216 than the mat room and that the new training facility took him by surprise.

“I had no idea that they were even building one,” said the 41-year-old native of Ridge, Md. “They (G-3) called me and told me about it, and we checked it out. The second I saw it I wanted to use it, but they made us wait until today for the official opening.”

After using the pit for the first time, the students in the course said they prefer the pit rather than being indoors.

“This is the difference between (physical training) gear and boots and utes,” said Gunnery Sgt. Wil Tadios, Martial Arts Instructors Course student. “Inside we usually wear either wrestling shoes or just socks. Here we’re wearing boots, which is what we would be wearing if we were in a combat environment. This is gearing more toward real scenarios.”

Warrior Pit 216 is the first of two MCMAP training facilities to open. The second pit will be located at Landing Zone Boondocker and will open sometime in the near future.

Units interested in using the MCMAP pits need to contact their S-3 and are responsible for the conditions of the pits before and after it’s use.



Sergeant David Burnell, student, Martial Arts Instructors Course, sizes up Sgt. Jason Bennett, instructor trainer, during a martial arts match.



Sergeant Justin Simone, student, Martial Arts Instructors Course, lifts weights during a circuit course before using the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training facility May 30.



Marines attending the Martial Arts Instructors Course perform exercises outside the new MCMAP training facility at Landing Zone 216, as instructor trainers ask them questions from inside the pit.





A member of Te Wananga Maori O Hawaii performs a male hula wearing a traditional red Hawaiian malo. The dance was one of several performed to represent the many cultures of the Polynesian area. Dances and chants from the New Zealand native Maori tradition were also performed.



Wearing pre-colonial tribal New Zealand outfits, members of Te Wananga Maori O Hawaii performed a kapa haka to sing and dance. Traditional Maori concerts call for artists to use all body parts, including eyes and tongues, as individual instruments played while performing.

# Sacrifices recalled at heritage luncheon



Army Maj. Gen. Vern Miyagi, mobilization assistant to the commander, United States Pacific Command, speaks during the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Luncheon aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

**Story and Photos by  
Christine Cabalo**

*Photojournalist*

Never forget the sacrifices of generations before you, Army Maj. Gen. Vern Miyagi told attendees at the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month luncheon May 30.

The luncheon brought service members and civilians together at Anderson Hall Dining Facility aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Miyagi spoke at the luncheon after the performance of traditional Polynesian dances from Maori group, Te Wananga Maori O Hawaii.

“We’re all together in this service regardless of our cultural backgrounds,” said Miyagi, mobilization assistant to the commander, United States Pacific Command. “We must never forget where we came from or how we got here.”

Remembering their cultural heritage, Maori singers from Laie, Hawaii, sang choral music as people entered Anderson Hall. Attendants ate Pacific-style grilled pork and chicken dishes while watching the troop perform tribal New Zealand chants. Called a kapa haka in Maori, the troop used special swinging dance instruments such as poi.

Lieutenant Cmdr. Jeff Williams, who was the luncheon’s master of ceremonies, said he hoped to raise cultural awareness during the month.

“One of the great things about living in Hawaii is getting to experience these cultural events,” said Williams, warfare development lead, Command, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two. “It’s terrific to see these performers do dances that were passed down to

them from previous generations. Most people on the mainland know about these things, but not many have experienced it firsthand.”

As keynote speaker, the major general later shared stories about Japanese-American soldiers who served with the Army’s 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

“They fought two battles,” said Miyagi. “One was against the Nazis, the other was to demonstrate their loyalties and citizenship as American citizens.”

Before joining the Hawaii Army National Guard, Miyagi’s previous service was in the U.S. Army Reserve as platoon leader of several sections in the 100th, 442nd.

During his childhood, the major general said he heard stories about the unit initially comprised of second-generation, or Nisei, Japanese-American volunteers.

“As a third-generation Japanese-American, I am a huge beneficiary of the sacrifice of the Nisei,” he said. “We must never forget them.”

The unit was created in 1942, and the 100th was comprised of infantry regiments from the Hawaii National Guard. Japanese-American volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland formed the 442nd, and Miyagi said this initially created rivalries within the regimental combat team.

He said those from Hawaii were called ‘buddha-heads’ from the Japanese phrase ‘buta-head’ meaning pig-headed. Those from the mainland were called ‘katonks’ because it was the supposed sound they made hitting the ground from calling someone a buddha-head.

Miyagi also said the soldiers eventually overcame their differences to

become one of the most honored units during World War II. The battalion is nicknamed “The Purple Heart Battalion” for more than 9,480 soldiers earning the award for being wounded by enemy fire.

“A lot of people don’t realize that many Medal of Honor recipients are Asian service members from World War II,” said Williams. “It’s ironic because there were many Japanese-American soldiers who received the award for their service, but their families were living in internment camps.”

Miyagi said the unit currently has soldiers from all over the Pacific Rim, including Samoa and Guam. The unit motto is still ‘Go For Broke.’ The 100th’s latest efforts have included fighting in Iraq for the global war on terror.

He said when soldiers deployed in 2005, many Japanese veterans from World War II were there to see them off.

“All throughout my personal life and in my career I’ve never felt the prejudice the Nisei felt during their service,” said Miyagi. “There was no doubt in my mind. I never felt any less American because of my racial heritage. This is because of the example set by Nisei soldiers.”

He said contributions of Asian and Pacific warriors have been significant, and their service is no more special than all Americans who serve their country in the military.

“We must always remember we are Americans first and foremost,” he said. “Past generations have made great sacrifices in order to make this happen. We must never forget and we must make the most of this precious gift.”



Marines and Sailors watch a female dancer from Te Wananga Maori O Hawaii perform a hula during the May 30 luncheon at Anderson Hall Dining Facility aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.



# Forest City gives back to base school

**Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Forest City workers left their office to help make a community better by participating in the first National Community Day on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, June 1, at Mokapu Elementary School.

The National Community Day occurs every year, but this year was the first year Forest City came on base.

“This is the first time that we did this event on this base,” said Tatiana Chang, neighborhood coordinator and project manager, Forest City. “This is our day to go out and volunteer for the communities that we serve.”

Forest City has volunteered at Pearl Harbor for the past four years. Volunteering here was a special occasion because it solidified Forest City’s commitment to this base, said Chang.

The decision to volunteer at the elementary school was made because of the strong commitment the state of Hawaii has toward education, said Chang.

“It made sense to us to help out the school,” she said. “Not only do we get to help make the school better for the education system, but we also get to help better the lives of the children of military parents that go here.”

The volunteers helped repaint bathrooms, replaced beams on the playgrounds and gave the front of the school a new landscape.

During Community Day, all the offices of Forest City close down and



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

**Volunteers from Forest City Residential Management help restore a playground at Mokapu Elementary School, June 1, as part of National Community Day. This was the first time that Forest City volunteered on Marine Corps Base Hawaii.**

everyone goes outside as a team to help contribute, said Denise Kelly, general manager.

“We have an incredible team here,” she said. “This is a great way for us to get together and

help out the community.”

Forest City took over base housing in 2006, and since then has worked hard to help better the living conditions on base, said Chang.

“We really appreciate the sacrifices

these service members make on a daily basis,” she said. “This was our way of giving back to them and the surrounding community. We’re serving those who serve us.”

Though there are no set plans on

how or where they volunteer next year, Chang said that it would be in a different area on base that will beautify the base and help out the residents.

## DRINK, from A-1

The order goes on to describe special circumstances as, “Those infrequent, non-routine military occasions when an entire unit, as a group, marks at a military installation a uniquely military occasion such as the conclusion of arduous military duty or the anniversary of the establishment of a military service or organization.”

In addition to the required ‘special circumstance,’ the policy also states that the appropriate controls must be in place to prevent endangering military service members or the surrounding community and in addition, all events must take place on base.

The order was signed soon after Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Conway and Sgt. Maj. John Estrada, then-sergeant major of the Marine Corps, returned from a visit to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Middle East. In an April 23 interview, Estrada said while on the trip the Marines “beat us down” on the underage-drinking question.

Some worry about the new policy causing trouble, but Estrada said he has faith in the Marines to do the right thing.

“I have some skeptics out there who say, ‘Oh no, you’re not opening that can of worms,’” he said. “I say that’s B.S. Marines are mature enough to know what’s legal here.”

While Marines under the age of 21 may now drink during special occasions, it doesn’t guarantee they will be able to. Ultimately, being allowed to drink at said occasions will be decided by how the Marines behave themselves.

“The authority to drink at age 18 is a privilege, not a right,” according to the message. “This authority shall be administered by the commander based on his assessment of each Marine’s maturity and ability to responsibly execute.”



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

**Colonel Edward Yarnell, commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, speaks to Marines and Sailors assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, June 1 during their 55th birthday celebration.**

## BIRTHDAY, from A-1

their history, the squadron members received a visit from MAG-24’s commanding officer, and former Red Lion, Col. Edward Yarnell.

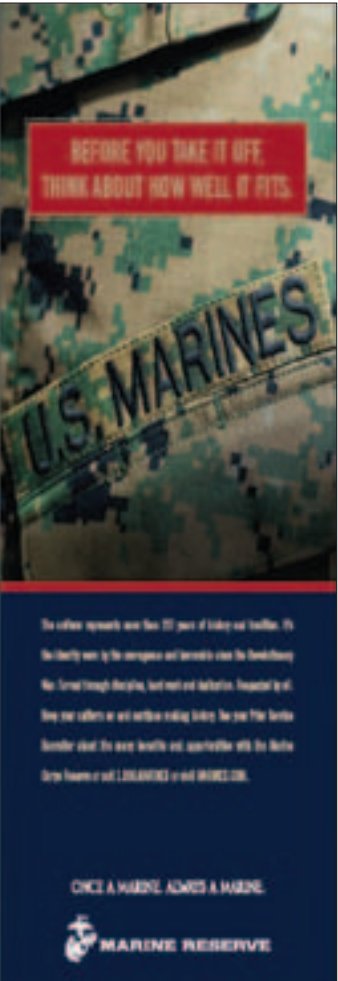
“You just came back from Al Asad (Iraq) and you should be proud of yourselves,” said Yarnell. “You met your goals

and more. You should be proud of the patch you wear. It should mean something to you because you are part of a squadron with a rich history.”

The celebration ended with a traditional cake cutting ceremony, the cake adorned with the squadron’s logo of a red lion inside a four-leafed clover.

“People that have been part of this

squadron never lose the squadron’s spirit,” said Broughton. “I keep finding people that at one point in time were a part of this squadron. When we were in Iraq, we were receiving care packages from veteran Red Lions. Their ages ranged from ages 20 to 70, so it just shows you how much people loved being a part of this squadron.”





# AROUND THE CORPS

## Scout snipers target urban terrain course

**Lance Cpl. Richard Blumenstein**

*MCB Camp Butler*

**Camp Foster, Okinawa** — After sneaking into secure positions in Combat Town and sighting in on their targets, they listen to the countdown, “Five, four, three, two,” boom! Scout sniper teams have just taken down four simulated enemy targets with what sounded like a single shot.

For scout snipers with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, this training scenario was one of many conducted during the III Marine Expeditionary Force Urban Sniper Course May 7-25. The course mirrors actual combat operations in urban terrain.

In combat, snipers have the mission to minimize threats with long range precision shooting in support of Marines conducting operations, said course instructor Staff Sgt. Nicholas N. Saroka, with III MEF’s Special Operations Training Group.

The three-week course encompassed a variety of shooting exercises and scenarios meant to tighten the scout snipers’ skills and prepare them for missions in urban terrain, Saroka said.

The snipers fired every day of the course to familiarize themselves with their weapons systems. They fired weapons such as M-40 A3 sniper rifles, M-4 A1 Carbine service rifle and the M-

107 .50 Caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle, also known as the SASR.

“The training gives them the opportunity to become one with the rifle they take to combat,” said Gunnery Sgt. David A. Jarvis, the chief instructor of the Urban Sniper Course.

Jarvis said the weapons snipers use on the battlefield are determined by the nature of the mission. For example, they use M-40 A3 sniper rifles to engage enemy personnel and the SASR to effectively destroy vehicles and equipment.

The snipers also trained with several scopes including the PVS- 10 Night Vision Sniper Scope, which allows snipers to effectively engage targets during both day and night.

“Nine times out of 10, they conduct these raids at night,” Jarvis said. “That’s why it’s important they know how to use the (PVS-10).”

Throughout the course, shooters participated in several exercises meant to improve their effectiveness in shooting from numerous positions.

One shooting exercise allowed the snipers to use some creative thinking in establishing their shooting positions. They used everything from rope, tables, boxes and even other scouts to help them effectively stabilize their weapons to deliver a more lethal shot.

In scenarios that mirrored typical vessel raid operations, the

snipers also trained to shoot at moving targets, such as simulated enemy personnel and vessels, from the inside of helicopters.

“I had no idea how accurately I could shoot from the helicopter,” said Cpl. Michael J. Donato, who shot what he called a “nice, tight group” on his target.

The course also provided the snipers a chance to shoot at and through materials commonly found in urban environments, such as glass and concrete, to gain a better understanding of how those obstacles can affect the trajectory of a round.

In the final week of the course, the Marines took part in a series of qualifications, including day and night shoots, and scenarios that tied everything from the course together.

Jarvis noted that the qualification portion of the course is the hardest part.

“These guys have to hit precisely where they’re aiming every time,” Jarvis said. “Lowering the standard anymore than that is unacceptable for a sniper.”



Lance Cpl. Richard Blumenstein

Corporal Mikhail H. Schmidt, a scout sniper with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, ejects a round after firing on a target during the Urban Sniper Course May 18 at Range 18. During the course Marines fired to improve their combat skills in urban environments.

